

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176461

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS, FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ONLY FROM BRIZILL

FOL RPT ASUNCION 3060 ACTION SECSTATE 26 JUL 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3060

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SHUM FHPA

SUBJ: PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR

REF: A) STATE 166498, B) ASUNCION 2980

1. ON JULY 26 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES FOR
ANOTHER IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR.
AS I REPORTED IN REFTEL B, NOGUES HAD PLANNED TO OBTAIN
GUIDANCE FROM THE PRESIDENT JULY 22.

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2. NOGUES INFORMED ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AUTHORIZED
HIM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AGUILAR IMMEDIATELY TO WORK
OUT A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO IAHR AND THE GOP. EVER
SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING NOGUES HAS BEEN TRYING TO
REACH AGUILAR ON THE TELEPHONE IN CARACAS. IF HE CAN
REACH HIM, AND IF AGUILAR AGREES, NOGUES IS READY TO
TRAVEL INCOGNITO TO CARACAS TO MEET WITH HIM.

3. THE GOP PLANS TO DELIVER ON JULY 30 ITS REPLY TO THE IAHRM CONFIDENTIAL REPORT. NOGUES HOPES TO CONVINCE THE IAHRM TO POSTPONE TEMPORARILY ITS REQUEST TO VISIT PARAGUAY UNTIL THE GOP REPLY HAS BEEN READ AND EVALUATED.

4. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT AT LONG LAST UNDERSTANDS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE PRESIDENT, AS A FALL BACK POSITION, HAS GIVEN NOGUES AUTHORIZATION TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO AN IAHRM VISIT NOW. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO IMPRESS ON THE GOP THE NEED FOR QUICK ACTION BECAUSE THE FACT THAT THE SOFT LOAN APPLICATIONS WERE WITHDRAWN ON JULY 13 FROM IDB CONSIDERATION WILL BECOME KNOWN VERY SOON AND WILL BRING ABOUT PRESSURES FOR FURTHER ACTION.

5. NOGUES WAS ANNOYED WITH AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR WHEN I TOLD HIM IN PASSING OF THE LATTER'S REMARKS TO ARA DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN ON JULY 18 AND TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ON THE 21ST, AS REPORTED REFTEL A. HE SAID THAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THESE STATEMENTS AND THAT THE STEPHANSKY VISIT WAS HANDLED IN GOOD FAITH BY THE GOP AND NEVER WAS CONSIDERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN IAHRM VISIT. HE SAID HE WAS EMBARRASSED THAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR MADE THESE REMARKS
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WHICH ONLY MAKE THE GOP LOOK DEVIOUS AND UNTRUSTWORTHY. HE SAID THAT, MOROVER, LOPEZ ESCOBAR HAD NO RIGHT TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE IAHRM MOVES. NOGUES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THAT THE IAHRM COULD NOT WITHDRAW ITS REQUEST AND HE DID NOT PLAN TO ASK THEM TO DO SO. ALL HE HOPED TO GET WAS A LITTLE MORE TIME. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH AGUILAR, NOGUES SAID THE RESULTS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY BY THE IAHRM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. I MADE, OF COURSE, NO REFERENCE TO FYI SECTION (PARAGRAPH 2) OF REFTEL A AND IAHRM AND MOYER ARE TOTALLY PROTECTED. I WILL REPORT AFTER NOGUES HAS CONTACTED AGUILAR.
LANDAU

UNQUOTE VANCE

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